

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph [0005] beginning at page 1, as follows:

[0005] The invention proposes a packet switching network including subscriber stations connected to each other through at least one switch. A network is said to be deterministic in the sense that any packet sent on the network from a source subscriber station reaches the destination subscriber station(s) within a duration that is limited in time. In the package switching network for each output port from each switch on the network the following relation is satisfied:

$$\frac{\sum_{i \text{ number of virtual links passing through the buffer}} \left[1 + \text{int} \left(\frac{(\text{Jitter In})_i + \text{max Latency}}{\text{BAGi}} \right) \right] *}{(\text{max frame duration}) \leq \text{latency}}$$

$$\sum_{i \text{ number of virtual links passing through the buffer}} \left[1 + \text{int} \left(\frac{(\text{Jitter In})_i + \text{max Latency}}{\text{BAGi}} \right) \right] * \quad (\text{max frame duration}) \leq \text{latency}$$

Please amend the paragraph [0009] at page 2, lines 7-9, as follows:

[0009] (Jitter In)_i (Jitter In)_i is the Jitter associated with a virtual link *i* that represents the time interval between the theoretical instant at which a frame is transmitted, and its effective transmission which may be before or after the theoretical instant.

Please amend the paragraph [0010] at page 2, line 10, as follows:

[0010] (max frame duration) [[i]] is the duration of the longest frame on the virtual link *i*.

Please amend the paragraph [0056] at page 6, line 10, as follows:

[0056] To prevent congestion of a switch output buffer so that frames will never be lost, a switch is necessary for each output port and the following relation must be satisfied for all switches in the network.

$$\frac{\sum_{\substack{i \text{ number of virtual links} \\ \text{passing through the buffer}}} \left[1 + \text{int} \left(\frac{(Jitter \ In)_i + \text{max Latency}}{BAGi} \right) \right] *}{(max \ frame \ duration) \leq latency}$$

$$\sum_{\substack{i \text{ number of virtual links} \\ \text{passing through the buffer}}} \left[1 + \text{int} \left(\frac{(Jitter \ In)_i + \text{max Latency}}{BAGi} \right) \right] * \quad (max \ frame \ duration) \leq latency$$

Please cancel the original Abstract at page 12 in its entirety and insert therefor the following replacement Abstract on a separate sheet as follows: